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Baylor Bears' dominance will continue through Big 12 play



Adam Suderman

Conference championships aren't commonplace for Baylor football; they've never won a Big 12 title. In fact, Baylor hasn't won a conference championship by itself since 1980. They shared the Southwest Conference title with Texas in 1994.

Where did the tides turn recently? Look no further than the hiring of head coach Art Briles prior to the 2008 season. What Briles has brought to the Bears is nothing short of staggering and it's a move that I believe will lead Baylor to its first ever Big 12 championship this season.

Where did this recent success story begin? Look back to Nov. 17 of last year.

Little was going right for Baylor heading into last season's game against K-State. The Bears had a 4-5 overall record with a 1-5 record in conference play. The skill was there, the coaching staff was there and the schemes were in place.

Unfortunately for K-State, the Wildcats not only lost their perfect season against the Bears, but they witnessed the awakening of a sleeping giant.

Since that mid-November evening, the Bears have scored at least 40 points in nine of their 10 games played. To make matters even more impressive, they've scored at least 40 points in 27 of their 32 games played since the 2011 season.

Arguably no team closed last season and went into this season with as much momentum as Baylor. Even though they finished with just a 7-5 record, it felt as if they were the talk of the town. Not only because they won their final four games, but because of the weapons they had returning.

I was skeptical that the Bears would be able to maintain their offensive firepower from one season to the next. Man, was I ever wrong.

They turned to quarterback Bryce Petty to lead their offense, making Petty their third starting quarterback in three years. After successful seasons from Robert Griffin III in 2011 and Nick Florence last season, few thought Petty could contribute at the level of his predecessors.

But the season numbers the junior is putting up are likely going to pass those of Griffin and

Florence.

Through six games, the junior has thrown for 2,023 yards and also assisted the Bears to a No. 1 ranking in total offense. Baylor even sits ahead of the vaunted Oregon Ducks with 714.3 yards per game.

Although the numbers haven't come against the most difficult group of defenses that includes Wofford, Buffalo and Louisiana Monroe, it still takes a very talented team to even come close to putting up numbers of that magnitude.

Unlike K-State, Baylor's schedule is definitely back heavy. The Bears still have to play Oklahoma, Texas Tech, Oklahoma State and Texas. Two of those four games will be on the road or a neutral field.

Of those four games, the toughest games easily fall against the Sooners and the Longhorns. Oklahoma does possess the defensive talent to slow down Baylor to a degree, but the offensive firepower doesn't exist to outscore the Bears.

Texas Tech's dream of a season is still surprising to me and similar to Baylor, they also play a back heavy schedule. The Red Raiders simply cannot compete in the realm of Oklahoma, Baylor and Texas. Although talented, nothing they do will be a surprise. With two freshman quarterbacks, it'll make matters even more difficult for Kliff Kingsbury and company.

After a few years of mediocre football for the Texas faithful, it appears Texas has begun to rediscover its swagger. Will they be able to hold the momentum against the Bears? I don't think so. If the Longhorns thought BYU was capable offensively, they won't like what they see on Dec. 7.

Even if the teams remaining on the Baylor's schedule hold the Bears underneath their scoring average of 64.6 points, they simply don't have offense that can go toe-to-toe with their high octane counterparts from Waco, Texas.

On the first Saturday of December, it'll feel like 1980 all over again for the Baylor faithful.

Adam Suderman is a senior in mass communications. Please send all comments to sports@kstatecollegian.com.

Why the Texas Tech Red Raiders will win the 2013 Big 12 title



Sean Frye

As the 2013 college football season enters its second half, only three teams in the conference are undefeated in Big 12 play. They are the Baylor Bears, Texas Longhorns and Texas Tech Red Raiders.

While the Bears and Longhorns have certainly played well in the early goings – particularly Texas with their blowout win over the Oklahoma Sooners – there's one team that should inevitably pull ahead from the pack and represent the Big 12 in the BCS. And that's Texas Tech.

New head coach Kliff Kingsbury has brought a breath of fresh air into the Red Raider program in Lubbock, Texas. His quarterbacks, walk-on Baker Mayfield and Davis Webb – both freshman – have combined to lead the nation's second most prolific passing attack.

What's even more impressive though is that the Red Raiders' defense, which ranked 38th in total defense last year, has improved to 30th in total defense in 2013 despite facing tougher competition. Texas Tech also allows just 18.7 points per game, the 16th-fewest in the country.

The Red Raiders are currently ranked No. 10 in the BCS standings and are one of the biggest surprises in college football. In fact, Texas Tech was picked seventh in the preseason Big 12 poll and was one of just four teams in the league to not receive a first place vote. Even K-State and TCU, two of the bottom-feeders in the Big 12, received first-place votes.

The star of the Red Raiders has undoubtedly been tight end Jace Amaro, who was

voted to the preseason All-Big 12 team. He leads the team in receptions and receiving yards with 56 and 742 respectively. That's been huge for Texas Tech, a team that has been forced to start two freshman quarterbacks due to injuries.

What makes the Red Raiders the favorites to win the Big 12 though is their schedule in the second half of the season. Texas Tech has just five games left after starting the season 7-0. They have two home games against Oklahoma State and K-State, while they hit the road to face Oklahoma, Baylor and Texas.

Texas Tech has already won three games on the road, including their season opener against SMU where Mayfield is believed to have become the first walk-on true freshman to start a game. The Red Raiders won that game 41-23.

The Red Raiders also have wins against the Kansas Jayhawks and West Virginia Mountaineers on the road this season as well.

The team also has some advantages in their last two games, both away from Lubbock. On Nov. 16, the Red Raiders face Baylor in Arlington, Texas, a neutral site game. That means Texas Tech doesn't have to face a hostile crowd.

Then to finish off the year, Texas Tech gets two weeks to prepare for the Texas Longhorns as they have a bye week before their Nov. 30 showdown.

Finally, two of the three remaining unbeaten teams face off in the final week of the season when Texas and Baylor go at it on Dec. 7 in Waco, Texas. So if nothing else, these two teams will knock one or the other out of contention.

The Red Raiders have hovered around greatness for a few years. With Kingsbury's arrival though, Texas Tech finally has that "it factor" that will lead it to a Big 12 title.

Sean Frye is a senior in electronic journalism. Please send all comments to sports@kstatecollegian.com.

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PROFILE

KYLE KLEIN



Kyle Klein is emerging as a reliable receiving threat this season. With wide receivers Tyler Lockett and Tramaine Thompson out with injuries, Klein stepped in to fill the void.

Emily DeShazer | Collegian

John Zetmeir
assistant sports editor

As quarterback Collin Klein lead the Wildcats to two consecutive double-digit winning seasons including a Big 12 championship in 2012, Klein became a prominent name at K-State. Collin, however, was not and is not the only Klein here.

Kyle Klein has been accustomed to being referred to as “Collin Klein’s little brother.”

“I’ve been getting that ‘Collin Klein’s little brother’ thing for probably a solid six years now,” Klein said.

It is not something that the younger of the Klein brothers takes personally. He said is proud of what Collin did in a K-State uniform and has no

problem being called Collin’s little brother.

“If Collin was known for something that was bad, I might mind it, but as it is it’s for all the good stuff that he did. So I don’t mind being associated with that at all,” Klein said.

Klein knew that he wanted to play big-time division-one football during his days at Loveland High School in Loveland, Colo. As a jack-of-all-trades, Klein played many different positions for Loveland and was recruited as an athlete according to rivals.com.

Stanford, UCLA and Miami were some of the other top schools on Klein’s list. The difference was that they were only offering the Colorado native a preferred walk-on opportunity. Meaning Klein would have the

opportunity to play football but he would not be on scholarship. When K-State offered Klein a shot, his mind was made up.

“I was just looking around for the best fit between football and school that would allow me to do that and K-State really won that race in both categories and having my brother here was definitely a huge plus for me,” Klein said.

Another factor that played into Klein’s decision was the return of head coach Bill Snyder. After a brief three year retirement, Snyder returned as head coach in 2009, one season before Klein would come to K-State.

“Obviously everyone and their mother knows about Bill Snyder,” Klein said. “It was really exciting to have the op-

portunity to play for a legend.”

Coming into this season, Klein faced one of his toughest challenges at fall camp working with new receivers coach Andre Coleman. Klein found himself pushed to new limits, but was happy for it, knowing that he needed to improve for this season.

Now, as a redshirt sophomore, Klein is beginning to see his name called more and more. Over the past two games, wide receivers Tyler Lockett and Tramaine Thompson have been sidelined with injury, which has allowed Klein to get more playing time.

“I’ve always appreciated Kyle. He’s a hard worker, when he wasn’t playing he still worked extremely hard,” Snyder said. “He’s truly focused

on what he’s doing. He’s a good teammate, he does anything and everything the right way and is always willing to learn more and he’s one of those young guys that tries diligently to improve his play day in and day out and consequently he does and I think we’ve all seen him improve his play over the period of time that he’s been here.”

Against Oklahoma State, Klein showed that he is fully capable of taking on the role as an option for the Wildcats offense when he made three catches for 34 yards. Klein represents a big target for whoever is in at quarterback. In the following week against Baylor, Klein caught one pass for 13 yards.

In his first two seasons as a Wildcat, Klein saw K-State go

21-5. This season, the Wildcats have struggled as they have fallen to a 2-4 record and have yet to be on the winning side in Big 12 play. Despite the early struggles, Klein believes that his team is improving.

“It has been on the team’s mind because we do have to win four of the next six games to see a bowl game,” Klein said. “That is something that we obviously all want to do. I think the rally cry is just getting better. Every week we have gotten a little bit better and made improvements, so I think as a team we are really close to getting traction and moving forward. Hopefully after the bye week we will be able to start back strong against West Virginia and gain momentum for the second half of the season.”

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Analyzing West Virginia: Taking a deeper look at the Mountaineers



courtesy photo
West Virginia quarterback **Clint Trickett** will likely start against the K-State Wildcats on Saturday. Trickett's first start was in the Mountaineers' upset win over Oklahoma State on Sept. 28.

Adam Suderman
staff writer

The roller coaster ride that is West Virginia football has continued throughout the first half of the season. Since their arrival to the Big 12 last year, the Mountaineers have accumulated a 10-11 record. While the numbers may appear sub-par, a few bright spots exist for the folks in Morgantown, W.Va.

West Virginia beat two ranked teams last season in Baylor and Texas while also beating No. 19 Oklahoma State earlier this season.

The Mountaineer offense has been far from proficient. In terms of total offense as well as rushing and passing offense, their highest ranking comes with through their passing attack. Nationally, the unit is the 55th best at 246.6 yards per game. As a whole, the offense ranks 77th with 399.1 yards on average.

Now sitting at a 3-4 record, overall consistency circles around one position.

Three quarterbacks have taken the field for West Virginia. Junior Paul Millard started the season at the helm of the Mountaineer offense, but was benched after struggling mightily against Oklahoma in favor of redshirt freshman Ford Childress. Just as Childress was getting comfortable in the Mountaineer offense, however, a torn pectoral knocked him out of contention for the job.

In need of an answer, head coach Dana Holgorsen hoped the old adage of "third time is the charm" would come true with junior Clint Trickett.

The Florida State transfer has remained the starter since the victory over the Oklahoma State earlier this season. Although he has kept the job through three games, Trickett has completed under 50 percent of his passes and

has thrown as many interceptions as touchdowns.

Standing alongside Trickett are the most dependable components of the Mountaineer offense.

Senior Charles Sims has taken the primary load at running back for West Virginia. This is the first season Sims has played in Morgantown. His previous three seasons were spent at the University of Houston playing with current Houston Texan quarterback Case Keenum. Holgorsen plays to Sims' strengths both in the running game and in the passing game. The senior has tallied over 200 receiving yards while also rushing for 557 yards and four touchdowns. Throughout his career, he has tallied just over 1,900 receiving yards and 2,000 rushing yards.

Sims has been complemented by Wichita native and junior running back Dreamius Smith. Smith, a product of Wichita Heights High School and Butler County Community College, has tallied 371 rushing yards on 73 carries since transitioning to the Division I level this year.

The receiving corps has been a deep committee through seven games. After having a talented duo in Tavon Austin and Steadman Bailey for several seasons, Holgorsen and company have been forced to find a new group of receivers to step up to the forefront of the offense.

Four different receivers have accumulated at least 200 receiving yards this season. Leading the charge for the Mountaineer receiving unit are redshirt sophomore Ronald Carswell, junior Kevin White and freshman Daikiel Shorts.

Carswell has the least amount of catches of the trio with 17, but he leads them in receiving yards with 348

for the season. White sits in second with 22 catches for 321 yards while Shorts has 28 catches for 296 yards.

As hard as it has been to get a feel for the Mountaineers offensively, it has been as difficult- if not harder- to find the feel for the defense. While the offense was shut out earlier this season by Maryland, the performance they have wanted to forget came defensively against the high-powered Baylor Bears.

The offensive numbers that Baylor put up are nothing short of staggering.

Against the Bears, the Mountaineers gave up 864 total yards. The yardage is the most given up within the 19-year history of the Big 12 Conference.

Outside of these performances, the Mountaineer defense has maintained better than average numbers in the remaining games played thus far.

The statistical strength of this defense comes from the linebackers and defensive backs. Junior linebacker Jared Barber is the team's leading tackler with 50 tackles. To make matters more impressive, Barber has only started four of the seven games this season. Falling just behind Barber is senior safety Darwin Cook. Of his 47 tackles this season, 41 of the stops have been solo tackles.

In order to defeat K-State on Saturday, the Mountaineers will rely heavily on their ability to create turnovers; coming into Saturday they rank 14th in the nation for most turnovers forced.

Of their 17 turnovers gained, nine are fumbles and eight are interceptions. K-State has struggled holding the ball late in the game. The Mountaineers will look to do more of the same on Saturday.

By the numbers



Emily DeShazer | The Collegian
K-State junior wide receiver **Curry Sexton** catches a pass from junior quarterback **Jake Waters** on Aug. 7 at Bill Snyder Family Stadium.

Austin Earl
staff writer

23

The combined number of new starters between K-State and West Virginia

It will be a youth movement in Manhattan. The question is whether the Wildcats or Mountaineers will be the ones to grow up and grab a win.

68

The amount of wins for West Virginia since 2003 while claiming the turnover battle in the ballgame

The Mountaineers only lost nine times when they win the turnover battle in that same amount of time. K-State must protect the ball and force turnovers if they want to have a good chance a winning.

0

The number of times West Virginia has visited Manhattan

The Mountaineers have the opportunity to even the all-time series against K-State. K-State currently leads 2-1.

30

The amount of points per game K-State scores and West Virginia gives up

The Wildcats are undefeated this season when scoring 30 or more points. The Mountaineers will have to put up a strong defensive effort to win this game.

1930

The last time West Virginia defeated K-State in football

That was the only victory that the Mountaineers have ever had over the Wildcats.

522

The amount of rushing yards sophomore quarterback Daniel Sams has this season.

Sams has rushed for more yards than any other Wildcat this year. West Virginia needs to keep him in check defensively if they want to have a shot at winning.

41

The amount of points K-State defeated West Virginia by last season.

K-State thoroughly dominated and led 31-7 at halftime. Collin Klein had one of his best performances, completing 19 of 21 passes for 323 yards. He had seven total touchdowns in that game.

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Heisman Watch Week 9: Bryce Petty gaining ground

Corbin McGuire
staff writer

Week 8 of college football finally provided some serious movement and separation in the Heisman watch. Three players' Heisman campaigns were hurt or plain ruined with losses at home — looking at you Teddy Bridgewater and Tajh Boyd — and one player may have given himself an early edge heading into the tail end of the season.

1. **Jameis Winston (QB, Florida State)**

Winston surpassed any serious expectations for a redshirt freshman going into Death Valley for a highly anticipated Heisman dual with Clemson's Boyd. Winston threw for 444 yards, completing 22-of-34 passes for three touchdowns in the Seminoles' 51-14 dismantling of the Tigers. Winston proved he could win on the biggest stage against a top Heisman contender, and lucky for him the Seminoles' remaining schedule lacks many serious threats to their undefeated record and No. 2 BCS ranking. A matchup with No. 7 Miami on Nov. 2 and a regular season finale on the road against Florida are the only legitimate threats, but if Winston and the Seminoles continue to play at a level that they did against Clemson, an undefeated season shouldn't be too hard to obtain. Oh, and Winston could make it back-to-back years for a freshman to win a Heisman as well.

2. **Marcus Mariota (QB, Oregon)**

Mariota and the Ducks broke the 60-point barrier last week against Wash-

ington State — a 62-38 win — for the first time since their opening game against Nicholls State. Granted, they scored 55 or more in four of the five games between those two games, to put them at No. 2 in the NCAA in scoring at 57.6 per game. The Ducks and Mariota have been here before, on the verge of making serious cases for national championship and Heisman considerations, but have historically tripped up on the way into a consolation BCS bowl. Last year, Stanford ruined the Ducks' undefeated season. The Cardinals will have a chance to repeat the role as a spoiler at home on a Thursday, Nov. 7 game on ESPN. The Ducks can't afford to look ahead, however, with No. 12 UCLA coming to Eugene, Ore. Saturday.

3. **Bryce Petty (QB, Baylor)**

K-State found a way to slow down Baylor in Manhattan, for the most part, but Petty and the Bears bounced back to a normal offensive output last week. Normal for Baylor, that is, as the Bears overwhelmed Iowa State 71-7. Petty still leads the NCAA's top ranked offense in terms of points per game (64.7) and the No. 3 offense in terms of passing yards per game (414). Petty gets a chance to show he can perform at a high level on the road Saturday against Kansas, followed up with back-to-back home games against No. 15 Oklahoma and No. 10 Texas Tech. Every game Baylor continues at this pace is another step for Petty towards a Heisman invitation.

4. **AJ McCarron (QB, Alabama)**

McCarron might not lead the NCAA in any statistical category, and Alabama might not run the most exciting offense in the country, but the senior quarterback just keeps performing at a highly-efficient level. He completed 15-of-21 pass attempts for 180 yards and three touchdowns in the Tide's 52-0 win against Arkansas. On the season, McCarron has completed 69 percent of his passes, accumulated a QB rating of 164.6 and has a touchdown-to-interception ratio of 4.66-to-1. McCarron may need a few players in front of him to lose to have a legitimate shot at winning the Heisman, but so long as the Tide remain undefeated, he'll remain in the discussion.

5. **Johnny Manziel (QB, Texas A&M)**

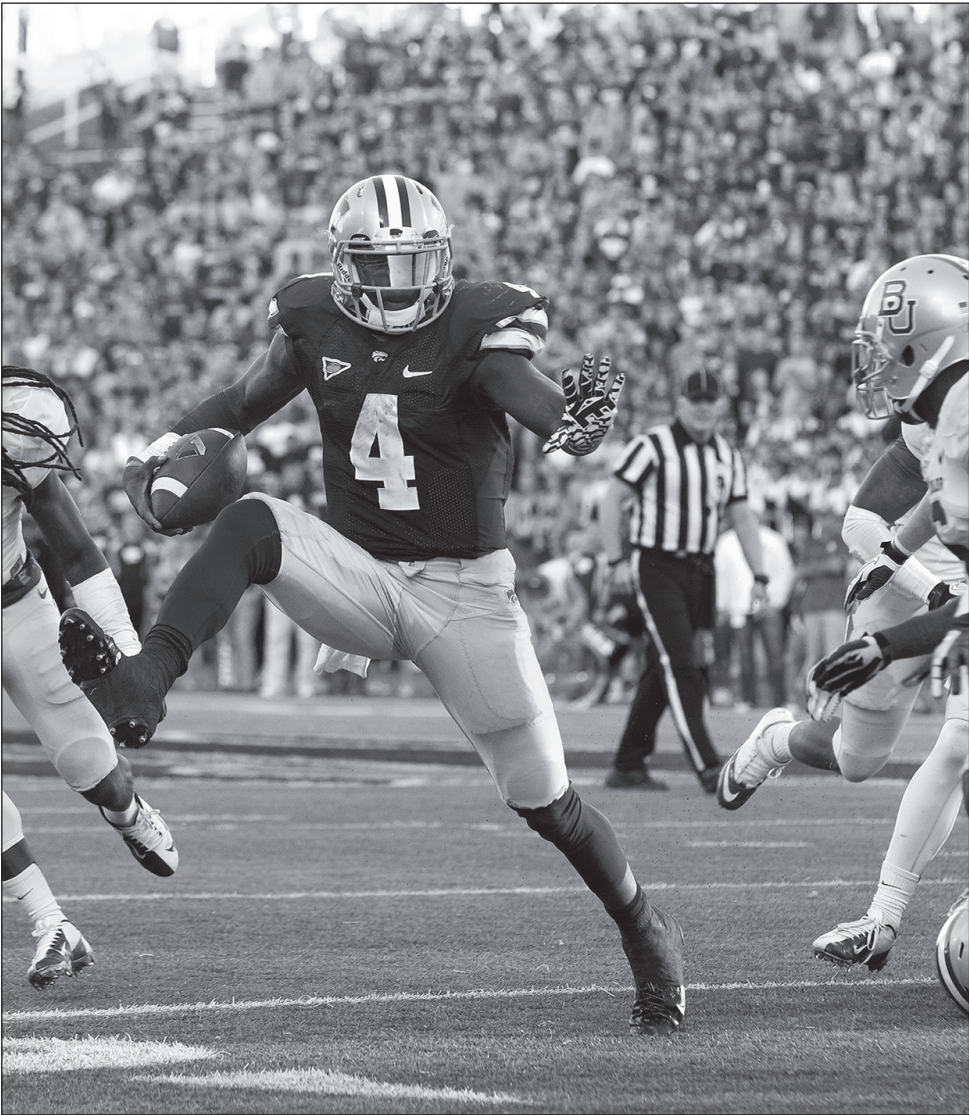
I haven't given up on "Johnny Football" quite yet even after the Aggies' 45-41 home loss to Auburn. Manziel fought through a shoulder injury on his throwing arm late in the game against the Tigers, giving the Aggies a 41-38 lead on a 1-yard run with five minutes left in the game. In the end, Manziel suffered from a struggling Aggies' defense that gave up more than 615 yards of total offense — 379 of the yards coming from the rushing attack. Manziel survived two losses last year to win a Heisman, and he still has road games against No. 13 LSU and No. 5 Missouri to make a statement to voters for a chance at a second Heisman trophy.

Emily DeShazer | Collegian

Bryce Petty averages 414 passing yards per game. He helped lead Baylor to a 71-7 win over Iowa State last week.



K-State Wildcats vs. WVU Mountaineers: Wildcats look for fresh start



Jed Barker | Collegian

K-State sophomore quarterback **Daniel Sams** high steps to avoid being tackled by Baylor's defense at Bill Snyder Family Stadium on Oct. 12.

Sean Frye
sports editor

After a disappointing 0-3 start in Big 12 play, the K-State Wildcats are coming off a bye week and are set to face the West Virginia Mountaineers, who are 1-2 in conference play.

K-State head coach Bill Snyder believes the bye week helped his team move on from a tough start to the season.

"I think that once they got away from the loss, tried to get focused on correcting the issues that we have, and get focused on West Virginia," Snyder said. "I think they were in the moment, which is important to not let it

linger with you and work diligently in your preparation and improvement. I think they have attempted to do that."

The Wildcats are coming off a 35-25 loss to the undefeated Baylor Bears two weeks ago. Quarterback Daniel Sams was the star of the game as he racked up 199 rushing yards and 41 more through the air.

"He allowed us to move the football and be more effective with our offense, but we still had some correctable miscues," Snyder said. "The ballgame boiled down to us giving up four big plays on defense and two critical penalties on defense that equated to 21 points. That had a

major impact on the outcome of the ballgame."

Despite losing the game, Snyder still said he saw noticeable improvement in a team that fell to an FCS opponent in Week 1. Of all of the units, the Wildcats head coach said the offensive line has taken the biggest leap.

"We are trying to get ourselves better, and in some cases we have," Snyder said. "In terms of our last ballgame, we have improved play with our offensive line. I think that was evident to most people. I thought our quarterback play — even though we had some problems, as did our offensive line — was

improved collectively."

The Wildcat rushing attack and offensive line will play a huge role in their game against the Mountaineers, who rank 96th in the country in rush defense with 196.0 rushing yards surrendered per game.

That means senior running back John Hubert, who rushed for 90 yards against Baylor, should see an increase in touches on Saturday. Snyder said he believes his Hubert has shown steady improvement as the season has progressed.

"I think that John has been practicing better, and consequently it has helped improve his play," Snyder said. "He still has a ways to go to get back to what his capabilities are, but I was pleased with the progress that he made."

West Virginia is in a bit of a rebuilding year after losing star quarterback Geno Smith and his top two receivers from last year's team to the NFL. Quarterback Clint Trickett, a transfer from Florida State, is expected

to start for the Mountaineers on Saturday.

Snyder, however, said that he and the Wildcats will take a similar approach to preparing for this year's Mountaineers squad.

"I do not see a substantial amount of differences," Snyder said. "They do not have the [Tavon] Austin youngster quite obviously, or Geno Smith, but the other young guys play well. I do not think they are aborting their system because of personnel. I think they have good schemes on both sides of the ball, and I just think they are trying to get new guys and young guys that have not worked together to fit into the system."

The fact of the matter for K-State now though, is that in order for the Wildcats to make a bowl game, they must win four of their remaining six games. That has weighed on the mind of sophomore wide receiver Kyle Klein.

"It has been on the team's mind because we do have to

win four of the next six games to see a bowl game," Klein said. "That is something that we obviously all want to do. I think the rally cry is just getting better. Every week we have gotten a little bit better and made improvements, so I think as a team we are really close to getting traction and moving forward. Hopefully after the bye week we will be able to start back strong against West Virginia and gain momentum for the second half of the season."

K-State is obviously not where they want to be at 2-4. But Saturday's game is the start of the second half of the season, and could prove to be a fresh start for the Wildcats.

"Being 2-4 is never easy and neither is the response to it," Snyder said. "How you respond to it and how you feel about it is difficult for the players, coaches and the people that are invested in this program. The important thing for us is not what could have been, but what are we going to do."

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Big 12 Predictions: OU looks to knock off Texas Tech

Austin Earl
staff writer



Iowa State Cyclones vs. No. 19 Oklahoma State Cowboys
11 a.m. CDT
On Saturday, the Oklahoma State Cowboys (5-1) travel to Ames, Iowa to take on the Iowa State Cyclones (1-5).
The Cowboys are fresh off of a win against TCU, 24-10. The Cowboys aren't the offensive powerhouse that most fans have grown used to seeing, but still average 35.7 points per game. Currently, the team is in the middle of a quarterback controversy between sophomore J.W. Walsh and senior Clint Chelf. Neither quarterback has taken the reigns and made the team his own yet, but Chelf got the start in their most recent game against TCU. The defense is good — but not great — as well, giving up 18.3 points per game.
The Cyclones have only looked helpless once this year despite being 1-5. The Cyclones

have played close games against good teams like Texas Tech and Texas. Last week's 71-7 drubbing against the Baylor Bears was the low point of the season. The Cyclones average 25.3 points per game, which puts them at 85th in the NCAA. They give up 36.7 points per game, putting them near the bottom in the nation at 109th.
Although the Cyclones should come out fired up after getting blown out, they haven't won a game at home yet this season, and Ames is normally where they are dangerous. Oklahoma State is too good of a team, however, to lose this game. The Cowboys should come out on top, 41-27.



Kansas Jayhawks vs. No. 8 Baylor Bears
6 p.m. CDT, ESPN
The undefeated Baylor Bears (6-0) make a second trip to the state of Kansas, this time to take

on the Kansas Jayhawks (2-4) in Lawrence.
KU's football program has been very bad over the past few years. Their last conference victory was against Colorado—who's now in the Pac-12—on Nov. 9, 2010. The Jayhawks have been more competitive this year, taking a 10-0 lead on Texas Tech and a 13-0 lead on Oklahoma. They gave up both of those leads and lost by double-digits, but showed signs of life.
Baylor, on the other hand, is one of the most balanced teams in both the Big 12 and the NCAA. The offense averages a whopping 64.7 points per game, while the defense on average gives up just 16.2 points per game.
Baylor thrives on the play action pass. Junior running back Lache Seastrunk averages 9.2 yards per carry for the Bears, which lures defenses in close to the line of scrimmage to defend the run. Once the running game has been established, the Bears use junior quarterback Bryce Petty to stretch the field for giant chunks of yardage through the air. A simple, age-old offense that is seemingly impossible to stop and is executed to near perfection.
KU's best hope is that Baylor struggles on the road like they

did against K-State. Baylor is too big, too strong and too fast for the Jayhawks to keep up, though. The Bears should come away with an easy victory, 63-10.



TCU Horned Frogs vs. Texas Longhorns
6:30 p.m. CDT, Fox Sports 1
It's a Lone-Star clash as the Texas Longhorns (4-2) go to Fort Worth, Tex. to take on the TCU Horned Frogs (3-4).
The Longhorns have ridden a three-game winning streak and seem to have overcome their early season struggles. Senior quarterback Case McCoy has come in and been very effective for the Longhorns in the absence of junior starting quarterback David Ash. Sophomore running back Johnathan Gray has been everything Texas needs on the ground, averaging 117 yards per game in the last three games. The Longhorns average 33 points per game, and give up 27 points per game. Both of those averages are middle of

the road in the NCAA.
TCU's season has been a major disappointment so far. They started the season off with high expectations, but have stumbled to a 3-4 record. This team has immense talent, but the offense just has not been able to pull it together. Sophomore quarterback Trevone Boykin has already thrown seven interceptions, and the offense as a whole averages 25.3 points per game. The TCU defense allows 21.7 points per game.
Texas and TCU should have a very tough battle on Saturday. TCU's above average defense, however, won't be enough to hold down the Longhorns. Texas wins, 27-10.



No. 15 Oklahoma Sooners vs. No. 10 Texas Tech Red Raiders
2:30 p.m. CDT, Fox
In the marquee game of the week in the Big 12, the Texas

Tech Red Raiders (7-0) will take on the Oklahoma Sooners (6-1).
Texas Tech has been very good so far this year. This game against the Sooners is their chance to enter the national championship picture. Tech's best win thus far was arguably its 37-27 victory over West Virginia last week. The Red Raiders have had two different freshman quarterbacks, Baker Mayfield and Davis Webb, who have both been getting the job done. Mayfield is doubtful this week, and Webb will start again. Tech averages 41.1 points per game, and gives up 18.7 points per game.
Oklahoma was having a perfect season, until they were dominated by Texas in the Red River Rivalry on Oct. 12. The Sooners got a win last week against KU, but looked very sloppy and has yet to regain their usual form. If Oklahoma still wants a shot at a Big 12 title, they must beat the Red Raiders this week. The Sooners average 30 points per game, and give up 17.1 points per game.
The Red Raiders have a huge opportunity for a statement win this week. The stage will be too big for the freshman Webb, though. Oklahoma will come out on top 31-30.

Keys to the game: K-State Wildcats will need to establish the run game

John Zetmeir
asst. sports editor

K-State

Getting Tyler Lockett and Tramaine Thompson back

The Wildcats have been forced to play their last two games without their top two receivers, junior Tyler Lockett and senior Tramaine Thompson. Not is this duo K-State's top receiving tandem, but they are also the Wildcats' two best return men. Since the two have gone down with injury, the Wildcats have had little success in the kick return game. The Wildcats are averaging a little under 20 yards per kick return in the last two games in their absence. Lockett's career average is just under 32 yards per return.
On Wednesday, head coach Bill Snyder said that he believes that both Lockett and Thompson will be ready to play against West Virginia on Saturday. It will be crucial for both the offense and special teams unit to have both playmakers back and healthy.
Success in the run game
Over the Wildcats' past two games, they have found a lot of success running the ball. Sophomore quarterback Daniel Sams has strung together two consecutive games of over 100 yards on the ground.
As a team, the Wildcats are averaging 184.2 rushing yards per game so far this season. Senior running back John Hubert also found success against Baylor, rushing for 90 yards on 15 carries.
In the Mountaineers' four losses this season, they have allowed an average of 255 yards on the ground. If K-State can get the running game going early, the offense could wear out the defensive front by controlling the clock.

Avoid late turnovers

Sams has found some success throwing the ball this season, completing a total of 22 of 32 passes. Despite the plethora of explosive plays that the sophomore signal caller has made, he has also displayed a tendency to be turnover prone at the end of games.
In his final three pass attempts against Oklahoma State on Oct. 5, Sams threw two interceptions to ultimately seal the Wildcats' fate. In his last game against Baylor, Sams' overall play was overshadowed by a crucial interception that came on his final pass attempt of the game.
"We are progressing, slowly but surely," Sams said (NEED TO FIND WHEN HE SAID THIS). "We have given up a lot of points in the red zone. I have not been finishing as far as the interceptions late in the game. We've shown some bright areas, but we still are not where we need to be."
If the Cats want to have a chance on Homecoming weekend, they must eliminate turnovers late in the game.

West Virginia

Try to keep the game close
All four of the Wildcats' losses



Emily DeShazer | Collegian

Head coach Bill Snyder speaks to junior wide receiver Tyler Lockett on Aug. 7 at Bill Snyder Family Stadium.

this season have come by 10 points or less. In three of the four losses, the Wildcats have held a lead in the fourth quarter and suggests that K-State has struggled to close out games this season.
Despite being 2-2 in games settled by 10 points or less this season, the Mountaineers have been able to keep games close against good teams. Those two losses have come at the hands of Oklahoma and Texas Tech, both of which are ranked. In one of those close wins, West Virginia

defeated Oklahoma State who was ranked No. 11 in the country at the time.
Try to ignore the road atmosphere
West Virginia has yet to win a road game this season. Since entering the Big 12, the Mountaineers are 2-4 on the road in Big 12 competition. Saturday's game has been declared a sellout, so it will be a tough environment for the Mountaineers to play in.

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The Wildcats are starting to show improvement



Emily DeShazer | Collegian

K-State senior running back **John Hubert** rushes through a hole in the Baylor defense on Oct. 12 at Bill Snyder Family Stadium.

Nicolas Wahl
staff writer

The main goal is to improve, to be better today than you were yesterday. Do that and everything else — wins and losses — will fall into place. If you've paid any type of attention to K-State football under head coach Bill Snyder then that sentiment, in so many words, has been etched into your memory to a perhaps nauseating degree.

But in 2013, a season where the Wildcats are breaking in not one, but two quarterbacks, where they are replacing eight of 11 defensive starters from a year ago and where they are playing in the shadow of one of the most accomplished and beloved teams in K-State history, that focus on improvement becomes even more important.

A season that began amidst high, and perhaps unrealistic, expectations, hit the ground with a flat tire in a loss to FCS foe North Dakota State. Three weeks of inconsistent and uncharacteristic play that could never be confused with "Snyder-esque" football followed, and left many — myself included — thinking that a bowl bid

or winning season was at best a pipe dream.

At that point K-State was a shell of its usual self.

They were undisciplined; as evidenced by a season-high eight penalties in the program's first loss to Texas in a decade. Those penalty numbers went hand-in-hand with a turnover margin that saw them give the opponents possession five more times than they had taken it on the season.

K-State had yet to find an identity either on offense or defense.

The two-quarterback system of Jake Waters and Daniel Sams was laughable at Texas, prompting even the broadcasting duo of Kirk Herbstreit and Brent Musburger to comment on the utter predictability of the offense depending on who came checked in the at quarterback. The Wildcats refused to take advantage of a Texas defense that had yielded ungodly rushing yardage in lopsided losses against BYU and Ole Miss. Defensively, though improving, the many new parts had yet to gel and insert themselves into the roles needed for success. The Wildcats needed playmakers on both sides of the ball.

Then came a trip to Stillwater,

Okla., and a match-up against preseason Big 12 favorite Oklahoma State. But this time, anyone watching could see the Wildcats begin to grow into their new shoes.

Though they still seemed ragged at times — K-State committed a season high 12 penalties and turned the ball over four times — the Wildcats began to find themselves.

With Sams taking most of the snaps at quarterback, the offense began to look like typical Snyder football. They accumulated an 11-minute time of possession advantage, keeping the Cowboy offense off the field. They moved the ball on the ground with 144 rushing yards, and Sams proved competent in the passing game going 15-of-21 for 182 yards and two touchdowns. All of this despite the absence of starting wide receivers and return men Tyler Lockett and Tramaine Thompson.

Defensively they held the normally high-powered Cowboys to just 330 yards of total offense. Preseason all-Big 12 safety Ty Zimmerman was everywhere with 14 tackles. Other playmakers began to emerge with defensive end Travis Britz' disruptive line play, and he even got into the act

in the kicking game by blocking a field goal that was returned for a touchdown by cornerback Kip Daily.

It wasn't a beautiful performance by any means, the penalties were atrocious, there were still too many turnovers and again K-State lost a game in the final minutes. That said, there was enough to make those in observance sense that something might have been coming together for this team.

Any questions in that regard were answered the following week as K-State hosted Baylor in a game that was everything you would imagine of a big-time college matchup at Bill Snyder Family Stadium. Granted, there are no moral victories, and the Wildcats did come up short, but it was vintage K-State against the then-No. 15 Bears.

They carved up the Baylor offense for 327 yards rushing — 199 of those from Sams. Perhaps more importantly the attention paid to Sams allowed running back John Hubert to return to form, lowering his shoulder after finding his lanes to the tune of 90-yards rushing on just 15 carries. K-State averaged 5.6 yards per carry as a team. They dominated time of possession,

holding the ball for nearly 40 minutes of game time.

Defensively, the Wildcats continued to emerge.

Defensive end Ryan Mueller was everywhere sacking Baylor quarterback Bryce Petty twice and, on a spectacular play, sacking, stripping and recovering a fumble from him simultaneously. Led by Mueller, Britz and Zimmerman K-State dropped the Bears for a loss five times providing playmaking ability to coincide with the steady play of linebacker Blake Slaughter who led the team with nine tackles.

K-State played its cleanest ball-game against the Bears, and nearly pulled off the upset. But its few mistakes; namely a personal foul on cornerback Randall Evans that led to a Baylor touchdown and a fourth-quarter interception by Sams, proved deadly.

Despite the record, this K-State team looks to be coming into its own. With a schedule that lightens considerably in the coming weeks, and the return of Lockett and Thompson on the horizon, don't be surprised to see these Wildcats reel off a few consecutive wins to earn bowl eligibility.

Comparing Positions: Wide receivers could be the difference in matchup



Emily DeShazer | Collegian

Baylor junior wide receiver **Levi Norwood** tries to escape K-State senior safety **Ty Zimmerman** on Oct. 12 at Bill Snyder Family Stadium.

Corbin McGuire
staff writer

WVU RB Charles Sims vs. K-State RB John Hubert

Charles Sims is West Virginia's top offensive threat, averaging a team-best 79.6 yards rushing a game, good for No. 5 in the Big 12. Sims is also a capable receiver out of the backfield with 26 catches, second best for the Mountaineers, and ranks No. 7 in the Big 12 in all-purpose yards. Hubert, unlike Sims, benefits from the attention Daniel Sams' garners when in the game, and also with the return of top receivers Tyler Lockett and Tramaine Thompson.

Advantage: K-State. Hubert averages just half a yard less per carry than Sims, and seems to be back on track after his 15-carry, 90-yard performance against Baylor. All eyes will be on Sims, while the Mountaineers' should be much more dispersed to other options on the Wildcats' offense.

WVU safety Darwin Cook vs. K-State safety Ty Zimmerman

Cook has started 30 games as a Mountaineer, and leads the Big 12 with four interceptions that also ranks him No. 6 in the NCAA. Leading an improving

defense, Cook is second in total tackles with 47 to junior linebacker Jared Barber at 51. Zimmerman also ranks second on his team with 43 tackles, but has intercepted just one pass so far this season.

Advantage: WVU. Cook, against a K-State team that has committed 15 total turnovers, should have a chance to make some game-changing plays when Daniel Sams or Jake Waters drop back to pass.

WVU WR Ronald Carswell vs. K-State WR Tyler Lockett

Carswell, a junior college transfer, is a hit or miss receiver for the Mountaineers. While Carswell leads the team with 348 receiving yards, he has only caught 17 passes — fourth best for the Mountaineers — including just one in last week's loss to Texas Tech. Lockett, despite missing almost two whole games, has double the catches of Carswell and 475 yards receiving — 237 of which came against Texas.

Advantage: K-State. Lockett should be fresh after two full weeks off, giving K-State the deep threat and wide receiver blanket it has been missing since he was injured in the second quarter of the Wildcats' loss to Oklahoma State.



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Game Of The Week Preview: Mizzou looks to continue streak against Gamecocks



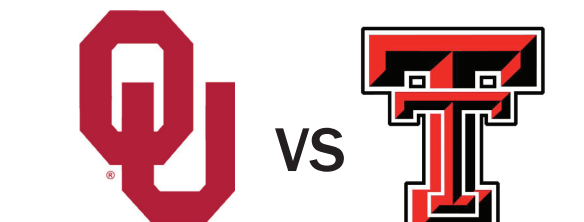
K-State Wildcats vs. West Virginia Mountaineers
2:45 p.m. CDT, Fox Sports 1

On Saturday, two very inconsistent football teams take the field to battle it out in K-State's homecoming game against the West Virginia Mountaineers. The match up between these two last year in Morgantown, W. Va, was a blowout of epic proportions on a national stage.

Both quarterbacks, K-State's Collin Klein and the Mountaineer's Geno Smith were in the running for the Heisman. Klein accumulated 323 yards through the air for three touchdowns and added four more on the ground to lead the Wildcats to an astonishing 55-14 victory. Smith was held to a just 143 yards, and threw his first two interceptions on the year. The Wildcats would march on to become No. 1 in the nation, while West Virginia struggled to find themselves during the rest of their season losing four of their last six.

This year is a different story. Both teams have had a difficult time finding their rhythm. Two of West Virginia's three wins came early, with a 24-17 win over William and Mary in their season opener and a 41-7 rout against Georgia State in week 3. However, their victory against Oklahoma State on Sept. 28 was impressive. K-State has had a hard time closing out games all season, leading North Dakota State, Oklahoma State and then-No. 15 Baylor late, but coming up short.

This one will be fun to watch and it's a game that the Wildcats desperately need to win to ensure that they don't lose control of this season entirely.



No. 17 Oklahoma Sooners vs. No. 10 Texas Tech Red Raiders
2:30 p.m. CDT, FOX

The No. 17 Oklahoma Sooners will take on the red-hot No. 10 Texas Tech Red Raiders in Norman, Okla. on Saturday afternoon.

Oklahoma has reason for concern. After starting the season 5-0, the Sooners were stopped in their tracks by Mac Brown and the Texas Longhorns. By itself, this wouldn't be reason for worry this season as the Longhorns find themselves near the top of the Big 12 standings, but the Red Raiders sit even higher.

Last week, the Sooners managed to pull out a 34-19 victory at 2-4 Kansas Jayhawks, while Tech destroyed the Jayhawks 56-14 two weeks prior. Even more concerning, Texas Tech's freshman phenom quarterback Davis Webb made Red Raider history as he tallied 462 yards through the air, leading Tech to 21 straight points and a victory over the West Virginia Mountaineers in Morgantown, W. Va., last week.

However, Oklahoma will present Tech with one of the most stout passing defenses they will see all season. The Sooners lead the nation, allowing just under 150 yards through the air and roughly 5.27 yards per pass attempt in their first seven games.

If the Sooners want to bring the Raiders' march to the top of the Big 12 to a screeching halt, they need to contain Webb and maintain the defensive dominance that they have displayed thus far this season.



No. 2 Oregon Ducks vs No. 12 UCLA Bruins
6:00 p.m. CDT, ESPN

A deflated UCLA Bruins team will be heading to Eugene, Ore. to take on the No. 2 Ducks who have the national title in their sights. The Bruins suffered a tough loss to No. 8 Stanford last week, losing both their first game of the season and a slew of players to injury. Linebacker Eric Kendricks left the game after taking a hard hit in the first half, tackle Simon Goines left with a knee injury and his replacement, Conor McDermott, left with a shoulder injury.

Oregon, on the other hand, is continuing their title-caliber play. They have outscored most opponents by a margin of three to one and average 643.1 yards per game. Defensively, UCLA is 32nd in the country in yards allowed, giving up 359.7 yards on average.

Despite UCLA's relatively high ranking, this game may not be for the faint of heart, as Ducks may fly past the Bruins for a blowout win.



No. 5 Missouri Tigers vs No. 20 South Carolina Gamecocks
6:00 p.m. CDT, ESPN2

Coming off of a loss to Tennessee, the No. 20 South Carolina Gamecocks will be looking for redemption. Although I don't believe they will find it in Columbia, Mo., when they take the field against Missouri on Saturday night.

The No. 5 Tigers are rocking and rolling in their second year adjusting to a new conference. After a dismal 5-7 showing last year, the Tigers have made all the right moves and are only the second team in all of Division I college football to be outscoring each of their opponents by at least 15 points — Oregon being the only other team doing so.

With two wins against perennial SEC powers Florida and Georgia, Missouri is making a case for itself without the help of anyone else. The Gamecocks, however, aren't a program to sleep on. Mike Davis is a solid running back and defensive end Jadeveon Clowney is still labeled as a top draft prospect for 2014. His stick on Vincent Smith in last year's Outback Bowl has a half-million views on YouTube and pulled in Sportcenter's Top Play for the bowl season.

Expect the Tigers to continue their journey to the SEC Championship game.



Oregon State Beavers vs No. 8 Stanford Cardinal
9:30 p.m. CDT, ESPN

Coming off of a tough loss to Utah two weeks ago, their first of the season, Stanford rebounded with a rugged win over UCLA and will look to deliver the same type of physicality against Oregon State this Saturday. On the flip side, Oregon State will be looking to continue their winning ways as well.

After losing a heartbreaker in their season opener 46-49 to FCS foe Eastern Washington, the Beavers have been on a rampage, winning their next three games against Hawaii, Utah and San Diego State. They've turned it up a notch even more lately, doubling-up on Colorado, Washington State and Cal.

Late in the fourth quarter last week, Cal defensive end Todd Barr pushed through the Oregon State O-line and delivered a scary blow to quarterback, and Heisman candidate, Sean Mannion. Mannion regained his composure and carried on to finish out the Beavers' 49-17 victory but Oregon State needs to be ready to stop Stanford's experienced front seven.



No. 14 Texas A&M Aggies vs Vanderbilt Commodores
11:21 a.m. CDT, ESPN3

With Texas A&M being handed their second loss of the season last week, you can fully expect Johnny "Football" Manziel to come out with his rage face on against Vanderbilt in College Station, Tex., on Saturday morning.

Vanderbilt orchestrated a beautiful comeback against Georgia last week in the fourth quarter. Down 14-27, the Commodores scored 17-straight to win 31-27, clinching their first win against a Top-25 opponent since they beat Auburn back on Oct. 4, 2008. Vanderbilt's impressive defensive showing, aided by several injuries to Bulldog offensive starters, held Georgia quarterback Aaron Murray to just 114 yards through the air.

Don't expect as much of a defensive hold on Texas A&M. The Aggies, led by the infamous and incredibly athletically gifted Manziel, will be out for blood. Despite two losses, the Aggies stayed within the Top-15. Anticipate a show from the A&M offense, as for most of the season the Aggies have averaged 588.7 yards per game and trail only Oregon and Baylor in total offense for the year.

Anticipate a lot of trash talking as Manziel and crew topple over the Commodores at home.

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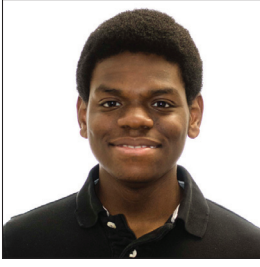
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